Theft of MTNL Cables

2021. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that theft of MTNL cables in Delhi has assumed alarming proportions and has become a business;

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss suffered by the MTNL due to cable thefts at the end of 1993, as compared to the loss suffered in 1992;

(c) whether Govrenment have made any inquiry into the rise in the cable thefts and to identify the involvement of MTNL, officials/employees, if any;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir, it is a fact that a large number of cable thefts are taking palce in MTNL Delhi.

(b) The estimated loss suffered by MTNL due to cable thefts during 1993 and 1992 in as under—

Year	Estimated (Material cost)
1993	Rs. 1105216.00
1992	Rs. 936947.00

(c) So far no inquiry has been made. FIR is being lodged with the police, in every single case, involving theft of cables. MTNL has also been emphasising that investigation of these thefts be entrusted to a special team and to conduct a drive for coordinated action to curb such thefts.

(d) MTNL has on its own undertaken following measures to contain cable thefts.

1. Intensive patrolling of important cable routes.

2. Close coordination with police authorities.

3. Double locking of manhole covers on duct routes and external chain and lock arrangement of PCM cabinets.

4. Burrying of cables in concrete in open culverts.

5. Installation of Alarm circuits for cables on vulnerable routes.

Liberalisation of terms by the Dot for Suppliers of Value Added Services

2022. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications has liberalised the terms and conditions imposed on prospective suppliers of value added services; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such services and those of the new liberalised terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM). (a) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions have been liberalised with a view to promote value added services.

(b) The essential details of the services and their liberalised terms are as follows—

1. *Electronic Mail Service*:

(a) The Annual licence fee has been revised to Rs. 25 lakhs per year for first two years; Rs. 35 lakhs per year for next two years and Rs. 50 lakhs for the 5th year.

(b) Licencee can provide service anywhere in the country.

(c) The related services, such as EDI Data bases, Store forward FAX, File Transfer and Protocal Universion will be veiwed as an extension of Electronic Mail Service.

2. *Voice Mail Service*:

(a) Licence fee has been revised to Rs. 15 lakhs per year for Delhi and Bombay, Rs. 10 Lakhs per year for Calcutta & Madras and Rs. 5 lakhs per year for each of other cities.

3. *V-SAT Based Services.*

The licence fee has been revised to Rs. 1 crore per year for the first two years and Rs. 1.5 crores for the third year. Licence fee will be reviewed thereafter.

Faulty Telephone Exchange in Ferozepur

2023. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whther it is a fact that Ferozepur, a Divisional Headquarter in Punjab and situated just on the Indo-Pak border, is having the most unsatisfactory and faulty telephone exchange in Punjab: and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to put this exchange in better working condition, when technical know-how has advanced tremendously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The services in Ferozepur are not very satisfactory due to life expired MAX-II type exchange and connectivity to Bhatinda Penta-Conta Trunk Automatic Exchange (PC TAX).

(b) To improve the telephone services, following steps are being taken.—

(i) Life expired 2000 lines MAX-II type exchange at Ferozepur is going to be replaced by installation of 3500 lines Main and 1000 lines expansion Crossbar exchange. The installation work is in progress.

(ii) In addition, 1400 lines C-DOT electronic exchange is proposed to be commissioned during 93-94

(iii) To improve subscribers trunk dialling service, Ferozepur, is being connected to Ludhiana Digital trunk automatic exchange instead of Penta-Conta Crossbar Trunk Automatic exchange at Bhatinda.

(iv) Subscribers dialling to other cities in Ferozepur Division at present is being provided by Penta Conta Crossbar trunk automatic exchange Bhatinda which will be replaced by digital trunk automatic exchange.

Deterioration of telephone services in the capital

2024. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been severe deterioration in the telephone services in the capital in the last couple of months: if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the number of complaints recorded by different telephone exchange in the capital during Deecmber, 1993 and January, 1994 with similar details of the corresponding period of 1992-93:

(c) whether it is also a fact that the telephone exchanges mainly attend to the complaints for restoration of telephones and complaints requiring repair/ replacement of equipment and on-line disturbances are not at all attended to despite repeated requests: and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir, there is no marked deterioration in telephone services in the last couple of months in Delhi.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

(c) No Sir, while it is correct that priority is given to dead telephones, there is systematic attention to the noisy lines or any other type of fault reported.

(d) Question does not arise.